

Senate Resolution No. 17

Introduced by Senators Margett and Ducheny

Relative to the 100th anniversary of parole.

WHEREAS, On July 21, 1905, the first parole officer was appointed. In 1909, Edward H. Whyte was hired as the first Chief State Parole Officer. Mr. Whyte used the media to dispel misconceptions about parole and went on to strengthen his relationship with law enforcement. The Parole Bureau began its expansion under Whyte's leadership; and

WHEREAS, In 1928, there were five parole officers in San Francisco: Robert Heinze, Tom Pendergast, John Hanrahan, Jack Cullen and George Bowen. The Bureau also opened an office in Los Angeles staffed by Deputy Parole Officer J. E. Lewis and an assistant. In 1934, Edward Whyte died and Charles C. Coxe was later appointed Chief State Parole Officer; and

WHEREAS, When John Chadwick took over the helm as Chief State Parole Officer in 1939, parole officers were political appointees. There were no set standards for workload and accountability. Chadwick knew that, for parole to continue its expansion and to be effective in ensuring public safety, the political element had to be removed. In 1941, Chadwick was successful, and civil service requirements were instituted for all parole officers with exception of the chief. In 1957, the title was changed to parole agent. Modern day parole agents continue to work under the foundation of this civil service law; and

WHEREAS, The following laws made a major impact on parole: The initial parole law of 1889 enacted in 1893, the indeterminate sentence law of 1917, the law creating the California Institute for Women (CIW) in 1929, which segregated men and women prisoners, the law creating the California Department of Corrections and the Adult Authority of 1944, the Supreme Court case of *Brewer v. Morrissey* in 1972, which established a parolee's right to a hearing

before being returned to prison, and the determinate sentence law of 1977; and

WHEREAS, The law creating CIW and the creation of the Women's Board of Trustees provided gender segregation for prisons and parolees. Upon completion of CIW, women previously being held in San Quentin and in county jails were moved to CIW in Tehachapi. The women prisoners out on parole had only women parole agents/officers - WPA/WPO. The Women's Board of Trustees oversaw all operations; and

WHEREAS, Emily Latham, an initial member of the Women's Board of Trustees, became the first Women's Chief of Parole and oversaw all state operations. Dorothy Stahl subsequently took over as Chief of women's parole operations. In the late 1960s, she oversaw a push for gender desegregation and a pilot project was created. Marilyn McKeehan, a women's parole agent was selected to be one of the first women to supervise male felons. She was successful and the Department of Corrections ended gender segregation; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, under the Determinate Sentence Law, the Women's Board of Trustees was eventually disbanded and the California Department of Corrections, Parole & Community Services Division took over responsibility for all prisoners and parolees in the state; and

WHEREAS, The T. H. Pendergast California Parole Museum in Diamond Bar was opened in 2003 to educate the public about parole, its positive contribution to the community and to honor those who have worked in the profession and given a great part of their lives to public protection and restorative justice. The T. H. Pendergast Parole Museum Board of Directors collects and organizes artifacts that document the history of parole in California; and

WHEREAS, The T. H. Pendergast California Parole Museum will unveil an exhibit at the State Capitol commemorating and celebrating 100 years of parole in California on June 30, 2005; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate hereby recognizes and commemorates 100 years of public service by parole agents in California.

Senate Resolution No. 17 read and adopted by the Senate July 1, 2005.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate